

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11

NEA-10 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OIC-04 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 L-03

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04/16/73 EXT 21121

APPROVED BY IO: RDMOREY

S/ IL: DGOOD

EUR: DGOOTT

EUR/ NE: JOWENS (SUBS)

LABOR: JQUACKENBUSH

COMMERCE: ADELONG

----- 087159

R 170136 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071140

EO:11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ILO, FI

SUBJECT: ILO - PRESIDENT KEKONNEN' S ADDRESS

REF: HELSINKI 841

1. FINLAND HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN AFFAIRS OF ILO GOVERNING BODY (THE EXECUTIVE ORGAN OF THE ILO) FOR SOME TIME, BOTH AS OBSERVER, AND SINCE JUNE 1972 AS A DEPUTY MEMBER. FINNISH INTERVENTIONS IN THAT BODY HAVE BEEN NON-POLITICAL; THEY HAVE FOCUSED ON TECHNICAL ISSUES OF PROPER CONCERN TO THE ILO, AND HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE.

2. RE APPREHENSIONS OF FINNISH EMPLOYERS DESCRIBED PARA 2 REFTEL. JACOB SODERMAN LED THE FINNISH DELEGATION AT THE 57 TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN JUNE
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1972, AND IT MAY BE THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN DRAFTING THE PRINCIPAL FINNISH ADDRESS, WHICH WAS PRESENTED BY MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE FREDRIKSSON. FULL TEXT THIS ADDRESS BEING AIRPOUCHED. ALTHOUGH GENERALLY MILD, IT DID CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE, WHICH MAY BE THE SORT OF THING THAT DISTURBS FINNISH EMPLOYERS: " OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY WORK AND, INDEED, SOCIAL POLICY AS A WHOLE, DECISIVELY DEPEND ON WHETHER NATIONAL RESOURCES AND THE LABOR FORCE ARE UNDER THE PROPER CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE STATE."

3. THERE WILL BE OVER 250 GENERAL SPEECHES MADE AT THE JUNE 1973 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE, IF PAST PRACTICE IS A GUIDE. THESE ARE MADE IN COMMENTING ON THE REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND ALMOST ANY SUBJECT MAY BE DISCUSSED. MANY ARE HIGHLY POLITICAL IN CONTENT. TO SOME EXTENT, KEKONEN'S SPEECH MAY BE SUBMERGED IN THIS SEA OF VERBIAGE. HE WILL ALSO HAVE TO SHARE THE LIMELIGHT WITH TUNISIAN PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, WHO HAS JUST INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO SPEAK AT THE CONFERENCE.

4. US PAYMENTS. US PAID ILO A TOTAL OF \$11,692,580 IN CY '72, WHICH PAID US UP THROUGH CY '71, AND PROVIDED A TOKEN PAYMENT ON CY '72 ASSESSMENT. THESE PAYMENTS PRESERVE OUR RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE ILO UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1974. CONGRESS IS IN PROCESS OF HOLDING HEARINGS ON OUR REQUEST FOR \$8.6 MILLION TO PAY BALANCE OF OUR CY '72 ASSESSMENT, AND \$8.7 MILLION TO PAY CY '73 ASSESSMENT. EMBASSY MAY INFORM FINNISH SOURCES OF THIS, BUT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT EXPRESS ANY VIEW ON LIKELY OUTCOME OF THESE REQUESTS.

5. FORESEEABLE MAJOR ISSUES AT JUNE 1973 CONFERENCE.

A. 1974-75 BIENNIAL BUDGET WILL BE ADOPTED BY CONFERENCE. OWING TO CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS TAKING PLACE WHEN DRAFT BUDGET WAS CONSIDERED BY ILO GOVERNING BODY IN FEBRUARY-MARCH 1973, THE ABSOLUTE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE BUDGET HAD TO BE LEFT OPEN. AMOUNT WILL NOT BE FIXED UNTIL MAY '73 SESSION OF GOVERNING BODY.

B. CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNING BODY. THERE IS POSSIBILITY
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THAT AN EASTERN EUROPEAN MAY SEEK THIS OFFICE, AND IF HE

SHOULD BE ELECTED, THERE WOULD BE CONSEQUENT SERIOUS DAMAGE TO US- ILO RELATIONS. FINLAND WILL NOT BE INVOLVED IN THIS, HOWEVER, AS IT IS ONLY DEPUTY MEMBER OF GOVERNING BODY, AND WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN. EMBASSY SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS ISSUE IS A PROBLEM FOR US, BUT SHOULD NOT RAISE IT WITH FINNS.

C. STRUCTURE. IN SIMPLEST FORM, THIS ISSUE REVOLVES AROUND SOVIET- LED DRIVE, WITH SUPPORT FROM EES AND SOME LDCS, TO CHANGE STRUCTURE OF THE ILO IN SUCH A WAY THAT COUNTRIES WITHOUT FREE TRADE UNIONS AND FREE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS CAN ACQUIRE GREATER, PERHAPS DECISIVE, ROLE IN ILO. THERE HAS BEEN A MORATORIUM ON DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT FOR TWO YEARS, BUT MORATORIUM EXPIRES BEFORE 1973 CONFERENCE, AND SOVIETS MAY INITIATE MOVE TO BRING ABOUT STRUCTURAL CHANGES FAVORABLE TO THEIR INTERESTS.

D. POLITICAL ATTACKS. AS INDICATED ABOVE, DEBATE ON DG' S REPORT IS SCENE OF MUCH POLITICAL DEBATE, AN IMPORTANT PART OF IT ON MATTERS IRRELEVANT TO THE AGENDA, OR INDEED, TO MATTERS OF PROPER CONCERN TO ILO WHETHER ON AGENDA OR NOT. DISCIPLINING OF THIS DEBATE IS A NEVER- ENDING BATTLE THAT WILL HAVE TO BE FOUGHT THIS YEAR AS IT HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS PAST.

6. PORTUGUESE ITEM. FIFTY- SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 1972; ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CERTAIN ILO ACTION RELATED TO PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICA. FLOWING FROM THIS THE 189 TH SESSION OF GOVERNING BODY, FEB- MARCH 1973, DECIDED TO COMPOSE A TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE OF GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS TO DISCUSS WITH THE OAU SECRETARY GENERAL " THE QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF THE AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORIES OF ANGOLA, MOZAMBIQUE, AND GUINEA (BISSAU) IN MEETINGS OF THE ILO..." MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE ARE: GOVERNMENTS; FINLAND, INDIA; WORKERS; FOGAM (CAMEROON), LOUET (FRANCE); EMPLOYERS; ABATE (ETHIOPIA), AND DIALLO (CONGO). WE HAVE NO REPORTS YET ON NATURE OR TIMING OF ANY PLANNED MEETINGS BETWEEN THIS DELEGATION AND THE OAU SEC GEN. WE DO NOT KNOW WHOM FINLAND WILL NAME AS
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ITS MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION.

7. DEPARTMENT IS NOT RPT NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO INITIATE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH FINNISH GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYERS, OR WORKERS ON ABOVE ISSUES. ROGERS

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